



# SWIMMING POOLS AND HOT TUBS

## City of Lawrence

Department of Public Works

317-545-8787

[www.cityoflawrence.org](http://www.cityoflawrence.org)

This handout is intended only as a guide to the subject matter covered herein and is based in part on the 2020 Indiana Residential Code. While every attempt has been made to insure the correctness of this handout, no guarantees are made to its accuracy or completeness. Responsibility for compliance with applicable codes and ordinances falls on the owner or contractor. For specific questions regarding code requirements, refer to the Indiana Building Code or contact your local Building Department.

### PERMITS

Permits are required for all in-ground swimming pools.

Permits are required for above ground swimming pools more than 18 inches in depth or more than 15 feet in diameter with an electrical connection.

Permits are not required for hot tubs. However, if you must add a dedicated electrical circuit, an electrical permit is required.

In addition to the City of Lawrence permit you will also be required to obtain an Improvement Location Permit from the Department of Business and Neighborhood Services in Marion County. Please visit their website at <https://www.indy.gov/activity/residential-development-permits> for more information.

All pools must comply with these rules whether or not a permit is required.

### PLANS

Plans must be submitted with any permit application for a pool. Plans must include a site plan that shows the proposed location of the pool relative to structures, lot lines, easements, wetland buffers, or other deed restrictions. Plans must indicate the design of the fence including details on gates. Applicants should refer to the swimming pool ordinance for full information on plans. The ordinance is available at

[https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/lawrence/latest/lawrence\\_in/0-0-0-838#rid-0-0-0-1066](https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/lawrence/latest/lawrence_in/0-0-0-838#rid-0-0-0-1066)

### TEMPORARY/CONSTRUCTION FENCE

A fence is required around any pool as soon as it is capable of holding water. A construction fence meeting the following may be used during construction only:

- a. Be of snow fence like or similar design and be securely anchored in place.
- b. Be constructed with its base flush to the ground.
- c. Be at least four feet in height with posts no more than 8 feet apart.
- d. Remain in place until a permanent fence is installed.

## **PERMANENT FENCES**

The pool or tub area shall be enclosed by either: fence or other structural barrier, which shall be adequate to prevent persons, children or animals from danger or harm, and shall be equipped with a self-closing, self-latching gate or a safety pool cover, meeting the specifications of I.A.C. 20-4-27(c).

If a structural barrier is utilized, the structural barrier shall be a chain link, ornamental or solid fence or wall, and:

- a. If erected on a grade, the fence shall be not less than five feet in height; or
- b. If erected on the deck of an above ground pool or hot tub, the fence or structural barrier on the deck shall not be less than 36 inches in height.
- c. Dwellings and other accessory buildings can be part of the pool enclosure
- d. A hot tub with a lockable cover does not need a fence.

## **SPECIAL RULES FOR ABOVE GROUND POOL (FENCES)**

Above ground pools with side walls 4 feet or more in height need no fence but access to the pool must be by a 4 foot high gate that is self-closing and self-latching. Decks or other construction may be used to achieve the four foot height barrier.

## **THE RULES**

- \*A swimming pool or hot tub shall not be located in or on any front yard or closer to any rear lot line than five (5) feet.
- \*Structural design must be engineered to withstand the expected forces to which it will be subjected.
- \*Overflow and surface drainage. Pool decks must be designed so that no splash or overflow water returns to the pool.
- \*Handholds. Handholds must be provided and must not be more than nine inches above the water line and shall extend around the entire periphery of the pool.
- \*Pool deck.
  - a. A pool deck not less than 48 inches wide must extend entirely around the pool.
  - b. No deck is required for aboveground pools.
- \*All water and drain connections must comply with the Indiana Plumbing Code or the 2020 Indiana Residential Code.
- \*Filters. When equipped with a filter, all pressure filter systems must be equipped with an air release at the high point in the system.
- \*Pumps. When the pumping equipment is installed above ground level below the overflow level of the pool as may be dictated by the contour of the plot on which the pool is constructed, a valve shall be installed on the main suction line located in an accessible place outside of the walls of the pool.
- \*Water supply.
  - a. Fill spouts must be at least six inches above the upper rim of the pool.
  - b. If the make-up water line discharges to a surge or balancing tank, the point of discharge shall be least six inches above the rim of the tank.
  - c. No over-the-rim spout will be acceptable unless located under a diving board or installed in a manner approved by the Department of Public Works.
- \*Drainage.
  - a. The main outlets, for purposes of recirculation and emptying swimming pools, shall be so located as to provide at least one outlet at the deepest point in the pool if the pool width does not exceed 20 feet. If the pool width is more than 20 feet, multiple outlets shall be provided and spaced not more than 20 feet apart, and not more than ten feet from walls.

b. All main outlets shall be equipped with gratings having an area of openings not less than four times the cross-sectional area of the outlet pipe. The gratings shall be of such design so that they cannot be readily removable by bathers and will not injure bathers' fingers.

c. Swimming pools shall be equipped with facilities for completely emptying the pool by gravity if elevations permit. No direct connection shall be made to the sewer. Outlets from pool recirculation systems shall terminate at least six inches above the receptacle connected to the sewer.

\*Lights used to illuminate any outdoor pool shall be so arranged and shaded as to reflect light away from adjoining premises.